

Amendments To The Claims:

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A stent comprising: a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends; the stent body having a plurality of adjacent closed circumferential support structures, the closed circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis; each support structure including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern, at least some of the apex portions of adjacent closed circumferential support structures being configured to longitudinally overlap one another when in the un-deployed configuration; a plurality of ~~circumferential~~ connecting struts interconnecting at least some of the adjacent closed circumferential support structures, the ~~circumferential~~ connecting struts extending between and connected to the apex portions that overlap one another.

39. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein in the deployed orientation, adjacent closed circumferential support structures are offset such that the apex portions on one side of a support structure are positioned intermediate the apex portions on a facing side of an adjacent support structure.

40. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 38 wherein at least some of the ~~circumferential~~ connecting struts have a width greater than a width of the longitudinal struts.

41. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The stent of claim 38 wherein the ~~circumferential~~ connecting struts joining first and second adjacent support structures extend in a first direction and the ~~circumferential~~ connecting struts joining second and third support structures extend in a second direction opposite the first direction.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the ~~circumferential~~ connecting struts connecting the apex portions are angled with respect to a circumferential direction.

44. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 38 wherein the undulating pattern defines a wavelength, and wherein the ~~circumferential~~ connecting members struts are at least one half the length of the wavelength.

45. (Currently amended) A stent comprising: a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body defining a plurality of cells, the stent body having a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends; the stent body having a plurality of adjacent closed circumferential support structures, the closed circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis; each support structure including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern; and a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting at least some of the adjacent closed circumferential support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions of adjacent circumferential support structures, at least some of the circumferential connecting struts having a width greater than a width of the longitudinal struts, each cell of the stent partially defined by a connecting strut.

46. (Currently amended) A stent comprising: a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a circumference and a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends; the stent body having a plurality of circumferential support structures, which extend generally about the circumference of the stent, the circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis; each of the circumferential support structures including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern, at least some of the apex portions of adjacent circumferential support structures being configured to longitudinally extend past each other when in the un-deployed configuration thus providing longitudinal overlap; a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting at least some of the adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between and connected to the apex portions that extend past each other.

47. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 46, wherein the adjacent circumferential support structures include a first circumferential support structure and a second circumferential support structure that is adjacent to the first circumferential support structure, and wherein in the deployed orientation, the adjacent circumferential support structures are offset such that the apex portions on one side of the first circumferential support structure are positioned intermediate the apex portions on a facing side of the second circumferential support structure.

48. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 46, wherein at least some of the circumferential

connecting struts have a width greater than a width of the longitudinal struts.

49. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 46, wherein the adjacent circumferential support structures include a first circumferential support structure, a second circumferential support structure and a third circumferential support structure, wherein the second circumferential support structure is adjacent the first and the third circumferential support structures, and wherein the circumferential connecting struts joining the first and the second support structures extend in a first direction and the circumferential connecting struts joining the second and the third support structures extend in a second direction opposite the first direction.

50. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 46, wherein some of the longitudinal struts are longer than other longitudinal struts, and wherein the longer longitudinal struts provide the longitudinal overlap at the apex portions.

51. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 46, wherein the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions that extend past each other are angled with respect to the circumference of the stent body.

52. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 46, wherein the undulating pattern defines a wavelength, and wherein the circumferential connecting members are at least one half the length of the wavelength.